

Claims

1. Method for coding positions of data elements in a data structure, where

position codes are associated with the data elements in a pre-determined sequence,

characterized in that

the position codes are selected in such a way that, if the lengths of the position codes are unlimited, any desired number of other position codes can be allocated between the positions of two data elements in order to code positions of other data elements.

2. Method for coding positions of data elements in a data structure, where

position codes are associated with the data elements in a pre-determined sequence,

characterized in that

the position codes are selected in such a way that other position codes can be allocated between the positions of two adjacent data elements in order to code positions of other data elements, at least one other position code being longer than the longest of the position codes of the two adjacent data elements.

3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the position codes represent rational numbers.

4. Method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the first and/or last position code of the data elements are selected in such a way that other position codes can be inserted before the first and/or after the last position code.

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5. Method according to Claim 4,
characterized in that the first position code is not equal to
zero and/or the last position code is not equal to one.
6. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the position codes comprise binary data.
7. Method according to Claim 6,
characterized in that the position codes comprise one or more
data bit n-tuples and one or more extension bits, the quantity of
the extension bits corresponding to the quantity of the data bit
n-tuples.
8. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the data structure forms part of a data
tree.
9. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the data elements comprise data codes for
the data elements of a document.
10. Method according to Claim 9,
characterized in that the document is an XML document.
11. Method according to Claim 9 or 10,
characterized in that the data codes for the document are
generated with an MPEG coding method.
12. Method according to Claim 11,
characterized in that the coding method is a standardized MPEG-7
coding method.
13. Device for coding positions of data elements in a data structure,

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characterized in that a method according to one of the preceding claims can be carried out with the device.

14. Device for decoding position codes of data elements in a data structure,
characterized in that the position codes coded according to one of the methods in Claims 1 to 12 can be decoded with the device.
15. Data transmission system comprising a device according to Claim 13 and a device according to Claim 14.